



Old Fletton Urban District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

Sanitary Condition of the District  
during the year 1940.





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## **To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

The practice whereby the Report is drawn up on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health has been adhered to as in the previous year's issue.

The normal peace time work has been, as far as circumstances permitted, carried out as usual but in consequence of pressure of work arising from additional duties placed upon the Authority, less time has been available to devote to it, and the routine work has been somewhat curtailed.

The decision of the Council towards the close of 1939 to make available to the Public free immunisation against Diphtheria was a commendable action, which proved to be anticipation of what was later recognised as a nation-wide requirement and undertaking.

### **STAFF.**

Medical Officer of Health     D. S. BUCHANAN, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector ..... T. ASHCROFT, C.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.I.M.E.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Area .....                                   | 3029 acres |
| Estimated Population (mid 1940) .....        | 7929       |
| (mid 1939) .....                             | 7823       |
| Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1939 .... | 2227       |
| Rateable Value .....                         | £38,972    |
| Value of Penny Rate .....                    | £153       |

During the course of 1940 no radical change took place in the industry of the district. As formerly, brickmaking remains the principal industry, with the preparation of canned fruits and vegetables and engineering as subsidiaries.

In addition there are seasonal industries in the manufacturing of sauces and of sugar from sugar beet.

All these industries are equipped with modern processes and all the firms take ample precaution for the welfare of their employees.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

|              |           |  |    |
|--------------|-----------|--|----|
| LIVE BIRTHS  | TOTAL     | M.   | F. |
| Legitimate   | 136       | 71   | 65 |
| Illegitimate | 5         | 2  | 3  |
|              | <hr/> 141 |  |    |
|              |           | Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 17.7 |    |
| STILL BIRTHS | 5         | 3  | 2  |
|              |           | Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births 34.2                |    |
| DEATHS       | 83        | 45   | 38 |
|              |           | Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.4 |    |
|              |           | Death Rate adjusted 11.5                                       |    |

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

|                               | Deaths | Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births |
|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| No. 29 Puerperal sepsis       | 1      | 6.7  |
| No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes | —      | —  |
| Total                         | 1      | 6.7  |



## Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:--

|   |       |       |       |      |
|---|-------|-------|-------|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births                   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 62.2 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | ..... | ..... | ..... | 65.2 |
| Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „                 | ..... | ..... | ..... | Nil  |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages)                       | ..... | ..... | ..... | 11   |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)                      | ..... | ..... | ..... | Nil  |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)               | ..... | ..... | ..... | Nil  |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)               | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2    |

## RATES

|  | Per 1,000 Population |              |            | Per 1,000 Live Births |
|--|----------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|
|  | Live Births          | Still Births | Death Rate | Infantile Mortality   |
| Fletton  | 17.7                 | 0.63         | 11.5       | 62                    |
| England & Wales                                      | 14.6                 | 0.55         | 14.3       | 55                    |
| London (Adm. County)                                 | 13.7                 | 0.44         | 17.8       | 50                    |
| 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London | 16.0                 | 0.64         | 15.8       | 61                    |
| 148 Smaller Towns                                    | 15.7                 | 0.55         | 12.8       | 54                    |

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

| CAUSES OF DEATH.                        | Males | Females | Totals |
|---|-------|---------|--------|
| All Causes.                             | 51    | 36      | 87     |
| 1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers        | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 2 Cerebro-spinal fever                  | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 3 Scarlet Fever                         | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 4 Whooping Cough                        | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 5 Diphtheria                            | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system    | 2     | 3       | 5      |
| 7 Other forms of Tuberculosis           | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 8 Syphilitic diseases                   | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 9 Influenza                             | 1     | 0       | 1      |
| 10 Measles                              | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 11 Ac. Polio myel. & polio enceph       | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 12 Acute Inf. enceph.                   | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 13 Cancer of buc. cav. & oesph & uter.  | 0     | 1       | 1      |
| 14 Cancer of stomach & duodenum         | 1     | 1       | 2      |
| 15 Cancer of Breast                     | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 16 Cancer of all other sites            | 4     | 4       | 8      |
| 17 Diabetes                             | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 18 Intra. cran: vasc. lesions           | 7     | 2       | 9      |
| 19 Heart Disease                        | 8     | 13      | 21     |
| 20 Other diseases of circulatory system | 1     | 1       | 2      |
| 21 Bronchitis                           | 2     | 4       | 6      |
| 22 Pneumonia                            | 3     | 1       | 4      |
| 23 Other respiratory diseases           | 1     | 0       | 1      |
| 24 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum         | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 25 Diarrhoea under 2 years              | 2     | 0       | 2      |
| 26 Appendicitis                         | 1     | 0       | 1      |
| 27 Other digestive diseases             | 1     | 0       | 1      |
| 28 Nephritis                            | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 29 Puerperal & post abort. sepsis       | 0     | 1       | 1      |
| 30 Other maternal causes                | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 31 Premature birth,                     | 3     | 1       | 4      |
| 32 Con. mal; birth inj; inft. dis.      | 2     | 0       | 2      |
| 33 Suicide                              | 0     | 1       | 1      |
| 34 Road traffic Accidents               | 0     | 0       | 0      |
| 35 Other violent causes                 | 1     | 0       | 1      |
| 36 All other causes                     | 5     | 5       | 10     |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### (a) **Laboratory Facilities :**

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined and reported upon at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Under the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Scheme, specimens may be sent for Bacteriological examination to the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

### (b) **Ambulance Facilities :—**

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases excellent provision is made by Peterborough City Authority and London Brick Company and in addition a second ambulance is available at Stilton and can be obtained either through the Public Assistance Officer or through the Public Health Department of the Huntingdon County Council.

### (c) **Nursing in the Home :—**

Nursing in the district is carried on by the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Nursing Association under the supervision of the County Council. Two qualified nurses, both of whom are also certified midwives, are employed. They carry out the general nursing in the district, attend the majority of maternity cases and act as Health Visitors.

No provision is made for the home visiting of Measles, Whooping Cough and Infantile Diarrhoea.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.



**(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres:—**

Infant Welfare work in the district is carried out under the auspices of a voluntary body, the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Infant Welfare Association, at their clinic in London Road. The Infant Welfare Clinic has weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. while a Toddlers Clinic is open on the first Thursday of each month from 3 to 4 p.m.

The Hunts. County Council provide the following health services: —

|                                  |       |   |
|----------------------------------|-------|---|
| School Clinic<br>(Minor Ailment) | ...   | Infant Welfare, London Road,<br>Old Fletton,<br>Every Wenesday 9-30—12.   |
| Eyes                             | ..... | Consultant's Rooms. By Appt.  |
| Dental Clinic                    | ..... | Infant Welfare, London Road,<br>Old Fletton,<br>Every Monday 9-30—12.<br>1-30—4.  |
| Tuberculosis                     | ....  | High Street, Old Fletton,<br>2nd and 4th Wednesdays<br>1-30—4   |
| Orthopaedic                      | ...   | Memorial Hospital,<br>Peterborough,<br>1st and 3rd Tuesday each<br>month at 2-30 p.m. By Appt.                            |
| Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic        | ..... | Memorial Hospital every<br>Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.   |
| Venereal Diseases                | ..... | 28, Fitzwilliam Street,<br>Peterborough.<br>Men—Tuesday and Friday<br>6—8 p.m.<br>Women—Tuesday and Friday<br>3-30—6 p.m. |

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or more often when necessary) and once after confinement.

**(e) Hospitals – Public and Voluntary :—**

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon, which is provided by the Joint Hospital Board.

- (2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital continues to carry out the general hospital service in the district. At this hospital facilities for In-patient and Out-patient treatment of General Medical or Surgical Cases are available.

(3) **Maternity Hospital :—**

Provision is made for the reception of all Maternity cases occurring among evacuated women in the district in the Emergency Maternity Hospital established by the Huntingdon County Council at Paxton Park. Under special conditions resident women and also women not evacuated under the Government Evacuation Scheme are admitted to this hospital for their confinement.

The original provision in the hospital at the Huntingdon Institution, for cases in which home conditions are not suitable, is still available. In addition cases are still admitted to the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, when complications make it necessary.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water :—**

The water supply for the district is obtained from the Peterborough Corporation Water Undertaking and purchased in bulk. Bacteriological examination and chemical analysis elicit the fact that the supply is of good standard, but rather hard in character — samples for Bacteriological examination are taken weekly, and reported upon by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge.

A scheme for an emergency water supply for domestic use was submitted to the Council and later to the Ministry of Health for their approval. This scheme consisted of the selection of eight wells, the water from which was of known quantity and quality. In the vicinity of these wells a tank of 1000 gallons capacity was placed on brick tiers about 3 feet above the ground. Arrangements were made for the tanks to be filled from the wells by a portable 2" self-priming centrifugal pump, by which means the eight tanks could be completely filled in about two hours. To eliminate any risk of water borne infection, the water in the tanks would be subjected to a chlorination process as advised by the Ministry. On completion of this work an inspection was made by a representative from the Regional Ministry of Health, who expressed his satisfaction and gave the formal approval of the Ministry.

In addition pamphlets have been issued to all householders, and notices have appeared on the official notice boards throughout the district.

**Drainage and Sewerage :—**

Conditions are unchanged. No additional work in connection with sewerage has been carried out in the past year.

**Housing :—**

As a result of present day conditions housing activities of any magnitude have been placed in abeyance and in consequence of this new houses have not yet been built to rehouse the occupants in Coneygree Road condemned the previous year. During the year 12 new houses were erected, all by private enterprise. Routine inspections have continued, all complaints investigated, and the appropriate action taken.

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.****Milk Supply :—**

The standard of the milk supplied in the district is good, but in common with many other districts there was some shortage during the last quarter of the year.

**Meat and other Foods :—**

There are four slaughter houses in the district, all of which are registered, but under the existing regulations of meat control these are not in use. All carcasses are inspected prior to being sold to the Public. During the course of the year no meat was condemned as unsound for human consumption.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Total No. of Inspections made .....     | 421 |
| „ „ „ Notices served .....              | 199 |
| (Informal ..... 186 Statutory ..... 13) |     |

|                                       |                            |       |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| Complaints received .....             | Total No. of .....         | 1,077 |
| Premises, houses, etc. ....           | No. inspected .....        | 324   |
|                                       | Nuisances abated .....     | 301   |
| Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse      | No. inspected .....        | 1     |
|                                       | Nuisances abated ....      | 1     |
| Animals improperly kept .....         | No. inspected .....        | Nil   |
|                                       | Nuisances abated .....     | Nil   |
| Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit ..... | No. inspected .....        | 16    |
|                                       | § § Nuisances abated ..... | 16    |
| Drain, Drain-traps, etc., etc. ....   | No. inspected .....        | 11    |
|                                       | Nuisances abated .....     | 11    |
| House, or part thereof, overcrowded   | No. inspected .....        | 15    |
|                                       | Nuisances abated .....     | Nil   |
| Smoke nuisances .....                 | No. of observations .....  | Nil   |
|                                       | Nuisances abated ....      | Nil   |
| Offensive accumulations .....         | No. inspected .....        | 3     |
|                                       | Nuisances abated .....     | 3     |
| Other sanitary conditions .....       | No. inspected .....        | 40    |
|                                       | Nuisances abated .....     | 40    |
| Slaughter houses .....                | No. licensed or registered | 4     |
|                                       | * No. of inspections ...   | None  |
| Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)    | No. established .....      | Nil   |
|                                       | No. of inspections .....   | Nil   |
| Public Health Act, 1936 .....         | No. houses condemned       | Nil   |
|                                       | No. closed .....           | None  |
|                                       | No. cleaned and limewashed |       |
| Food—seizures of unwholesome          | No. of .....               | Nil   |

\* Closed under the Food Acts (Slaughtering carried out at controlled slaughterhouse, Peterborough).



|                          |               |   |   |   |          |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|---|---|----------|
| Infectious Disease       |               | { | Houses affected with<br>S.F. Diph Typhoid<br>Erysipelas | } | 13       |
|                          |               |   | Houses inspected  |   | 13       |
|                          |               |   | No. of inspections                                      |   | 13       |
|                          |               |   | Houses disinfected                                      |   | 13       |
|                          |               |   | Schools   |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | Disinfectant used                                       |   | Formalin |
|                          |               |   | Lots of clothing disinfected                            |   | 1        |
|                          |               |   | „ „ destroyed   |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | †New provided   |   | 21       |
|                          |               |   | No. supplied with water                                 |   | 21       |
| * {                      | Water closets | { | †New provided   | } | 31       |
|                          |               |   | Samples taken for analysis                              |   | 42       |
|                          |               |   | „ condemned   |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | Wells closed  |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.                          |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | Public supply substituted for<br>well or pond           |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | Cisterns cleansed, repaired,<br>covered                 |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | Waste pipes disconnected<br>from drain                  |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | No. houses closed                                       |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | „ „ made habitable                                      |   | Nil      |
| Housing, etc., Act, 1936 |               | { | „ „ demolished  | } | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.  |   | Nil      |
|                          |               |   | Convictions   |   | Nil      |

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1937.

|  |  |   |   |   |     |
|--|--|---|---|---|-----|
| Factories  |  | { | Total number on register<br>(including bakehouses.) | } | 30  |
|  |  |   | No. in which nuisances<br>abated                    |   | Nil |
| Bakehouses                                       |  | { | No. on register                                     | } | 3   |
|  |  |   | No. in which nuisance<br>abated                     |   | 1   |
| Home Work  |  | { | No. of outworkers                                   | } | Nil |
|  |  |   | No. of Houses                                       |   | Nil |
|  |  |   | No. of infected houses                              |   | Nil |
| Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc. |  | { |   | } | Nil |
|  |  |   | Convictions   |   | Nil |

## Salvage and Refuse Collection.

Due to the institution of the salvage campaign, some rearrangements of the scavenging has been found to be necessary. Ordinary scavenging is now carried out throughout the whole district fortnightly instead of weekly as in past years, alternate weeks salvage is collected. In no way does this cause any inconvenience or endanger Public Health as most of the refuse that previously went into ashbins is now salvaged. The number of loads of refuse dumped during the year was 900, the approximate weight being 1800 tons.

During the year the collected materials which were sold realised £201 made up as follows:—

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Paper ... | £165 |
| Metal ... | £30  |
| Rags ...  | £3   |
| Bones ... | £3   |

It is worthy of note that the Council have up to the present undertaken this work of salvage without financial loss.

T. ASHCROFT,  
Sanitary Inspector.

\* Being particulars of *Nuisances abated* (§§) on previous sheet.

† To include those converted from Privy Middens.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### Notifiable Diseases.

There was no change during the year in the diseases compulsorily notifiable under the Notification Acts and Regulations. Measles was prevalent during the second quarter of the year, and accounted for 71% of the total number of cases of infectious diseases, while Whooping Cough amounted to almost 20%. Only sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Erysipelas occurred.

Scabies, a disease practically unknown in the district in normal times, made its appearance and affected chiefly the school children. It was undoubtedly introduced by the evacuees.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1940.

| DISEASE                               | TOTAL | under 1 year | 1 — 2 | 2 — 3 | 3 — 4 | 4 — 5 | 5 — 10 | 10 — 15 | 15 — 20 | 20 — 35 | 35 — 45 | 45 — 65 | 65 & upwards | Cases admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Smallpox                              | —     | —            | —     | —     | —     | —     | —      | —       | —       | —       | —       | —       | —            | —                          | —            |
| Scarlet Fever                         | 5     | —            | —     | —     | —     | 1     | 1      | 2       | 1       | —       | —       | —       | —            | 4                          | —            |
| Diphtheria                            | 4     | —            | —     | —     | 1     | —     | 1      | 1       | —       | 1       | —       | —       | —            | 4                          | —            |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | —     | —            | —     | —     | —     | —     | —      | —       | —       | —       | —       | —       | —            | —                          | —            |
| Puerperal Pyrexia                     | 1     | —            | —     | —     | —     | —     | —      | —       | —       | 1       | —       | —       | —            | 1                          | 1            |
| Pneumonia                             | 8     | —            | —     | —     | —     | —     | 1      | —       | —       | —       | 1       | 4       | 1            | —                          | 4            |
| Measles                               | 176   | 2            | 10    | 18    | 26    | 19    | 93     | 3       | 3       | 2       | —       | —       | —            | 1                          | —            |
| Whooping Cough                        | 47    | 1            | 5     | 5     | 10    | 8     | 17     | 1       | —       | —       | —       | —       | —            | —                          | —            |
| Erysipelas                            | 4     | —            | —     | —     | —     | —     | —      | —       | —       | —       | —       | 2       | 2            | —                          | —            |

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Following the preparatory work in connection with a scheme for mass immunisation against Diphtheria which was completed towards the close of 1939, an intensive drive was commenced in the early part of 1940. Schools were used as enquiry bureaux and immunisation centres. The Head Teachers in the district willingly co-operated and gave all assistance within their power to make the scheme successful. Some difficulties were experienced while working in these school immunisation centres — buildings never intended for such work and consequently not equipped with the essentials for clinical work of this type. Most of these difficulties however had been anticipated and with some improvising were largely overcome. The prophylactic preparation used was Parke Davis A.P.T. The method adopted was an initial sensitising dose followed after an interval by the main injection.

The following table summarises the number of children treated up to the close of the year :—

|              | RESIDENT CHILDREN |                     | EVACUEES |                     |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
|              | Complete          | 1st. injection only | Complete | 1st. injection only |
| Over 5 yrs.  | 292               | 10                  | 145      | 15                  |
| Under 5 yrs. | 36                | 2                   | —        | —                   |



## Tuberculosis.

| AGE PERIODS       | NEW CASES |    |               |    | DEATHS    |    |               |    |
|-------------------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
|                   | Pulmonary |    | Non Pulmonary |    | Pulmonary |    | Non Pulmonary |    |
|                   | M.        | F. | M.            | F. | M.        | F. | M.            | F. |
| 0 .....           | —         | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 1 .....           | —         | —  | 1             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 5 .....           | —         | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 15 .....          | 1         | 3  | —             | —  | 1         | 2  | —             | —  |
| 25 .....          | 2         | —  | —             | —  | —         | 1  | —             | —  |
| 35 .....          | —         | —  | —             | —  | 1         | —  | —             | —  |
| 45 .....          | —         | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 55 .....          | 1         | 1  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 65 & upwards..... | —         | —  | —             | —  | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| TOTAL :—          | 4         | 4  | 1             | —  | 2         | 3  | —             | —  |

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.





